

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071601
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MKBERRY:SO
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB- JANE A. COON
-----065792 202338Z /64
O 202249Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SOPN, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE NOON PRESS
BRIEFING ON MARCH 20:

Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE SENTENCING OF BHUTTO IN
PAKISTAN?

A: THE MATTER IS STILL BEFORE THE COURT. WE UNDER-
STAND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MR. BHUTTO TO APPEAL THE
VERDICT AND UNTIL SUCH LEGAL PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETED, IT
WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO COMMENT.

Q: DID WE HAVE ANY OBSERVERS OR ANY MONITORING OF THE
BHUTTO TRIAL? IN OTHER WORDS, DO WE HAVE THE INFORMATION
IF WE DECIDE TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON WHETHER THAT TRIAL
WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS?
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A: I DO NOT THINK WE HAD ANY OBSERVERS AT THE TRIAL, IF
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. I THINK THAT AGAIN IF, AS YOU
SAY WE CHOOSE TO COMMENT, IT WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF
WE DID HAVE AN ADEQUATE JUDGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE
SITUATION, BUT I AM NOT IN ANY WAY PREDICTING THAT WE
WILL COMMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PK, (BHUTTO, ALI)
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